

Cover King County

Increasing access to health coverage in King County

This fall we have an opportunity to enroll about 180,000 uninsured King County residents in free or low-cost health insurance. King County has made it a countywide priority to ensure the enrollment of all residents who are newly eligible for health coverage.

The opportunity

The Affordable Care Act will significantly improve people's ability to access health insurance.

- **Medicaid** will expand by increasing the income eligibility to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This means many childless adults will become eligible for the first time.
- Our state's **Health Benefit Exchange**, Washington Healthplanfinder, will give consumers and small businesses a new way to find, compare and enroll in affordable health insurance.
- **Employers** with more than 50 employees will be required to provide health insurance. Small business will receive tax incentives to provide insurance to their staff.

King County's approach

King County is taking a leadership role to maximize the enrollment and retention of all residents who will be newly eligible for health coverage. Our approach will involve:

- Providing enrollment assistance to King County residents, especially those who need extra help understanding the process.
- Leveraging partnerships to maximize our reach in the community.
- Broad communication and outreach to businesses and the general public to increase awareness of new coverage options.

In addition, King County Executive Dow Constantine has convened a **Leadership Circle** to champion enrollment. The group consists of prominent community leaders from local business, health and community-based organizations, education, cities, media and other sectors, all of whom have made a commitment to engage their respective constituencies.

Key Facts

- 1 in 6 King County residents between the ages 18-64 is currently uninsured.
- ~80,000 uninsured residents will be newly eligible for Medicaid.
- ~7,000 newly eligible for Medicaid will be homeless people.
- 100,000+ residents may be eligible for subsidized health coverage through the Exchange.
- ~250,000 King County residents work for small businesses that may be eligible to receive tax credits for offering insurance coverage to their employees.

Timeline

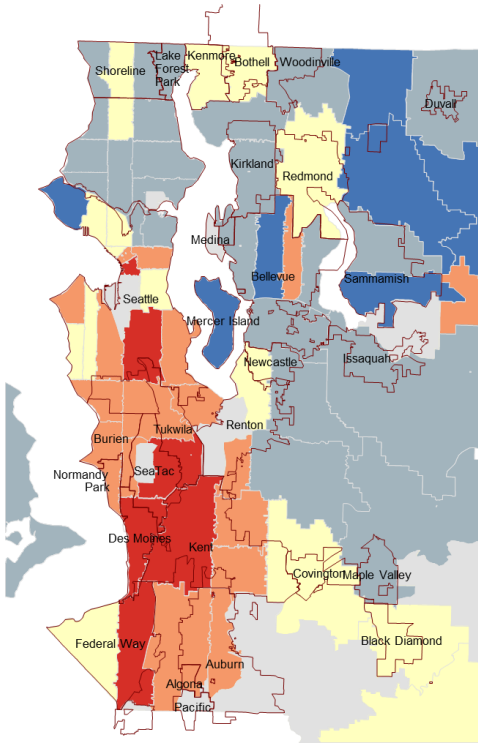


Health insurance access in King County

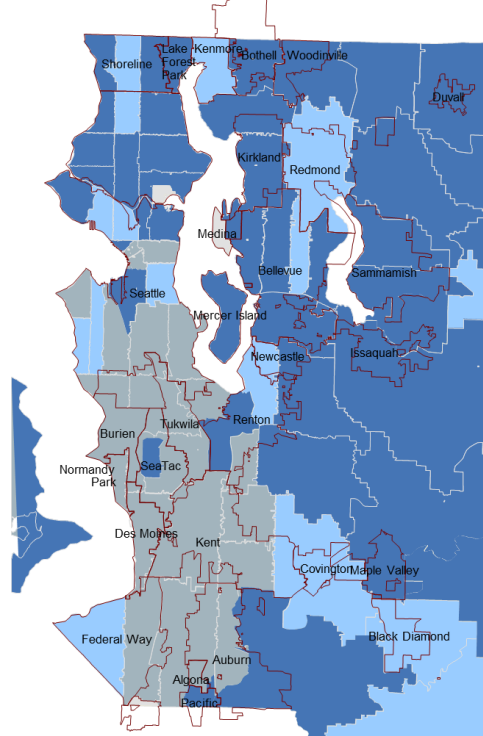
Cover King County: Our best opportunity to address health inequity

Wide disparities exist in King County related to place, race/ethnicity, education and income. In fact, King County has some of the greatest disparities in the U.S. in a number of determinants of health, including health coverage.

Current: 3-30% uninsured



**Post-2014: 1-10% uninsured
(anticipated)**



**Lack of health insurance:
low/high income disparity**

- In King County, low income households are 16 times more likely to be uninsured than higher income households. This disparity is most extreme relative to other large US counties.
- Lack of health insurance is much more common in some communities. For example, 26% of residents in Des Moines and Normandy Park are uninsured, while only 2% of residents in Mercer Island are uninsured.

